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#4790-z
MARGARET E. BLACKWELL PAPERS

1861-1863

Folder 1 of 2

Clarendon South Carolina
Feby. 23rd. 1861

M. A. P. Blackwell Esq.

Dear Friend!

Yours of last month came to me tonight this being some time since it was written very nearly a month. I have recd. several letters from you at Salem P. O. and am glad that you will write to me as I scarcely ever hear from the others of the family. I do not know really whether I have answered all that I have recd from you or not as this is such a world of excitements &c. but if I have not you must know that the will is good and my thoughts are often with you now as you are off to yourself if I do not write to you often. I hope you will write again soon. I will now have to ask you to direct to me in the future until I can inform you better to Manning, S.C. I do not stay there but my school is up in sowun Salem and I will be more apt to get a letter there than in Salem. although I am at the Springs tonight as I came here (thirty miles) to Muster. Our Company is not called of yet and I begin to indulge in the hope that we will not have to fight. Pink you can have or form some idea how I feel when you know that I am idle and just going first in place and then another sometimes in search of business and sometimes for other purposes. I have bought me a horse

gave one hundred and thirty dollars for him
he is a tolerably good sadle horse. and is
young. I bought him from Bob Strange
he has turned out to be a regular horse swap,
swapper, buyer and seller.
It has been about two weeks since I
stoped teaching school, and the most of the
time I have enjoyed myself very much
in traveling over the County. I have ex-
tended my acquaintances considerably
in Williamsburgh as I have been teaching
near the County or distroct line.
I went down about 15 m. below Memphis
and saw two of the prittiest kind of Ladies
whom I found to be very sociable and
entertaining. and they gave me some fine
Music on the Pianno. I have fallen in
love several times and some nights I can
not sleep atall. I saw one beautiful little
Girl not quite ready for market that caused
me by her pritty looks and sweet voice.
to lay and groan without sleep all night.
But I am thankful that, this fits wore off
soon. As I do not feel willing to take up on
my sholders the responsibility of a wife. I have
refrained from saying any thing to any of them
on the subject of marriage.
You seem still to be ready to talk about love
to them. and also to Make a Speech
but do not make the Rifle or come the
Riffle. Now do quit the unheard of tecnical
terms for my sake. I had forgotten them till
you wrote about your courting scrape.
You know how I made you laugh one day
about them.

I recd. a letter from Cousin Sam. the
same time that yours was written. when
you write tell him I will write
on first opportunity. I am glad to see
the spirit of Patriotism you show when
your freedom is about to be invaded.
I assure you that the same same feelings are
in my heart that I expressed in Miss. the last
morning I saw the Sun rise in that noble
and patriotic State. But alas! that
Stupid State that lies so near. Tenessee.
I feel for the poor blinded and cold
Blooded Tenesseeans. but let them
Rip. we can spare them. we are safe.
Our 1st President is from your noble state.
and we are all pleased at it and hope
he may act deliberately in all things.
I think S. Ca. is more deservative of a
big name now than ever and I also
think that all the states that have follow'd
her example are all pluck. and at the
same time ought to be thankful that
So. Ca. let them out of this horrible
Union and thereby saved them from
ruin. Don't you never move to
Tennessee. I would hate to hear of
your going to Memphis. am almost sorry
that I have been there unless the people
had some life blood in them.
I would actually rather Starve to death
in this heroic State than go to Tenn.
and make a fortune.
I stay in Cousin Sam's spirit. tell
huzzar. and be a brave man. oh! tell
53 him sister all I love him.

You ask me M. J. Blackwells address. it is Manning S.C. I told him when I first come out where to direct to you and he wrote you office dearer. but you know the fellows has his hands full. a wife an a son. I can tell you just where he is living, you know where the new road crosses Ox Swamp dont you? well he is building one the coast or bluff or hill & sothe. there is a great many changes made since I left there that I know would interest you. but I never can have time to write them. I wish I had time to write to cousin Sam. but you can tell him how it is. It is late and I want to go along ways to church tomorrow. there is to be a flag present to the Troops of Manning by the Ladies through the hands of McDowell, who will address the crowd on the ocation. the Ladies are invited you ought to see fly round that day. If I can be there. I think you do not have any idea how Love does a fellow this days out here in these sand hills. I called on three Lades yesterday and would have not left them but to come thirty miles to this muster. You must come out here before you take a wife. you will do best to wait three years longer any way. by which time with perseverance, care and economy you can have a start in the world. You can imagine that I will be first one place the another now for some time unless I have to go off to fight the audacious Lincolnites. write to cousin Sam and give him my love. I know I have wearied your patience and I will quit. hoping that this may find you in good health. try and not expose yourself too much. write soon and often.

as ever your loving Uncle. Arthur F. Boyes

Murray's Ferry S. C., Ca.
March 12th 1861.

Dear Pinckney
I write at the present time to inform you that I and family are quite well, and to say something in regard to matters generally. And you are overseeing this year, I heard that you were to attend to business for Dr Bowen in DeSoto, How do you like the business, I am trying it for myself this year and I find that I am often perplexed to know what to do that will be the best, When I get to regular work in the crop perhaps I will get on better, I have had a great deal of finishing work to do, which you know means building houses, repairing

matters generally and getting the fields ready for the plough, I am backward with my work, I think perhaps I can plant corn about the 18th or 20th inst, The latter part of the winter has been very wet and now it is cold, so that I don't think very early planting will pay,

I feel much better satisfied attending regularly to my business than I did while practising medicine, I never go to a patient now unless compelled,

I hope you will find it as agreeable as I do, and that you will stick close to it, and learn as much as possible about planting, It is a responsible business especially when we are conducting it for others, and having seen the manage=

menting different persons, and their success I feel somewhat prepared to speak, and my advice would be to you to attend closely and constantly to whatever is in the line of your duties; exact prompt obedience to orders of those under you, and be not too unyielding to the advice or wishes of your employer, This with regular habits of prudence industry and sobriety will gain you esteem and insure success in your present business and will form the foundation to a life of competence, I hope you will write to me and let me know any new ideas in farming which you may use or secured in DeSoto, Political matters here are quiet now, and

everything stands about as it
did a month or two ago,
Fort Sumter is still held by
the Yankees, Rumours of its
being attacked by the State
troops are frequent, but
we do not notice them much
now, I heard yesterday that
it was to be attacked today.
There are over 1000 men on
the Island, near Charleston from
the Country besides, the Companies
from the City,
There is a White frost this
morning

I am your Uncle truly
J. M. Simpson

March 16th 1861

Dear Pink I will drop you a few lines which leaves the White family all well except Colds the most of us suffering from that complaint. Leah has not done me any work for more than Six weeks looks verry badly yet but improving. She had Billeous Pneumonia Cesar is down with his Leg it looks verry bad indeed I have Just wrote to Ripley for Dr Murry to come and See him he has not done any work in Some Four weeks and I do not think he will be able to do any work this Summer and it may be his Leg may have to be cut off the loss of them two hands has thrown me back verry much I will finish planting the Chapman field in Corn on tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent me as soon as I get that planted will plant the Clover patch have it nearly ready for planting. Pink I want you to pay strict attention to your business do not visit Cockrum keep out of bad company do not give way to Passion and go to Church as often as you can I must close as my Shoulder has given out from Rheumatism rite as often as you can and Some one of the family will answer your letters

yours with respect E B Blackwell

My Dear Son I received your welcome letter this evening and as your Pa has written a short letter I will write on this side. We heard from several of our relatives this we. Your Uncle is suffering again with headache The family is fearful when warm weather comes on he will be bad off like he was last summer. The relations in Carolina are well. Your Uncle Louis wrote to Agnes that he wanted Land out here & perhaps he might come out this spring or summer to look a place The old people are living with Louis again since the Maj has married. Tom Gamble Moved to Bro Wm old place but was dissatisfied & your Uncle James swapt him a place near Manning. Mag Gamble has a pair of Twins a Son & Daughter. We cant hear what is going on in political circles with any certainty. so many things are told & then we hear it contradicted. I hope though we will not have a War. but if we do & you go, do come home first & let me tell you farewell. Ada says she has finished spinning her counterpanes. Agnes & I are spinning ours now. Malinda Jackson is to weave them. The school is out. The boys are all plowing except Gus & he helps me in the yard & garden. Mary is making her dresses. Maria is plowing too & Chary plowed some last week. I have not collected but half dollar for you yet. hard work collecting. Do My Son try & make yourself approved by all. make Friends but not many confidents. Write as often as you can we want to hear very often from you Steven told me he had written to you excuse a short letter now. all of our love to you.

I remain your sincere mother. Blackwell

Manning S.C.
March 17th/61

Dear friend

your very kind and most welcome letter came to hand a week or two ago, and I would have answered it before this, but I have been so very busy preparing to plant that I have not had the time until now. the health of the family, neighbors and friends generaly is very good at presant, and I truly hope this may find you enjoying the same rich blessing. times with us at preasant is very dull their is little more talk of

haveing peace now than their was some time ago and I truly hope we will have no war, but I can say that if old Abe sees fit to stick fire we are primed ready for war in this little Republic,
I heard a day or two ago that Major Anderson was going to give up fort Sumter I dont know how true it is but I hope it is so.
our Troop has increased to a very large number on last parade day we had a most beautiful flag presented to our Troop by the ladies of this district, the Rev. Mr Moore presented it

for them and Capt Hammet Rec^d it, I ass are you they both made noble Speaches, I wish you could have been there, their was a great many pretty young ladies out, I have almost quit flying around the girls I have almost come to the conclusion to live single the balance of my days, but I may change that notion after peace is made
I am still staying with father farming, and I expect to stay with him as long as I remain single.
I came very near going in to the business that you are following this year but declined on account of being

a volenteer, we have a
Steam Mill in one mile
of us owned by Messrs
Joe Burgess and Pulty
they are doing a large
business, the Mill is built
on the place whear old Mr
Frinaly Riagaway use to
live, our little town
Cumming is still impr
oving very fast, their are
a great many pretty girls
there, well Dear old
friend I must bring my
letter to a close hoping
to hear from you soon
give my respects to all
the family and believe
me to be your true
friend as ever

Jas H Calhoun
Cumming
Ga

Tippah County Miss
March 31st 1861

My Dear Brother

I will write you a few lines this morning, & have it mailed at Holly Springs if Perry comes by; he came up to his Father's yesterday & expects to return this evening. & promised to call on his way back. Nearly all of the family are complaining with cold Mother was nearly bed-sick yesterday & so was Joe & Alex. Pa has rheumatism in his arm & shoulder but not too bad off. to go turkey hunting he & Cousin Sam went out yesterday evening & Pa shot a bush for a turkey - & as a matter of course brought no game home. Mr James Speight died very suddenly about two weeks ago from an affection of the brain. I received a letter from Uncle Louis some time ago, which stated that if possible he would be out this spring or summer to look at land. Oh I do hope he will come & buy near us. Mr Easters has sold his place to Parson Rodgers. I do not know where Mr Easters designs going. Jane comes to see us occasionally. Mary Bell & Ida Hipp are married & May Pegram & Miss Hines also. I heard that Mr Compton was about to marry, tell him to remember his promise Mother has not planted but a very few seed in her garden yet

Cousin Rachael wrote Mother some time ago that Cousin Jenny expected to be married in March Sister Ada received a letter from Alice yesterday; she did not say any thing about it. Mrs Porter the Preacher's wife came & spent a few days with us. & we all admire her very much; she is so very pleasant & agreeable Mr Porter is a very fine man too I think. They almost worship Uncle Joe. Cousin Carrie is now in Pontotoc has been there nearly two weeks Cousin Bobbie was very sick & sent for her I have not heard definitely in some time but hope they are all better Uncle's health is very bad again speaks of giving up his work & I think he will act wisely to do so.

Brother I do want to see you very much indeed but I know it is folly to think of your leaving your business to visit us. I would not have you neglect that for anything I was very glad to hear of your attending church, & hope you will profit by it. The Ladies of Claremont has presented the Black River troop with a Flag Vermiller made a speech on the occasion; I will keep the paper untill you come & you can judge for yourself of its merits. The Children are often speaking of you & wishing to see you. Josina particularly she says though she "would not cry" like Adam Braddock does when Perry leaves. Adam was highly incensed last sunday because Sis & I did not stop; when we were coming from church. Cousin Sam says he would write to you but has nothing to write about but says he will see before long. Brother why dont you write to me? please write soon. All send love to you Sister Adelaide says she is looking for a letter from you Josina sends lots of love to you I must close remember Brother act as become a gentleman I remain truly your Sister Agnes

Camp Fisher the
january 21, 1862

Deare Cousin
I seat my self to write you a few Lin in answer to yours of which I received Last week. I was very glad to heare from you, I have no news to write you about we have had a good Deal of excitement in camp this week, on the furlough question Col Falkner has made a proposition to the ware Department his was for forty Days furlough that is from the time we are Dismised at corrinth he has 350 men that is in favor of it we will go home and then returned and surve out our time and then in List for the war or 2 years we have 50 men in this Company the Capt is in favor of it he thinks that it is the best thing that we could Do for the confederate States for our time will be out at the time our

Survice will reached nxt Spring if the Col Dos not get his furlough fixed up I Dont think we will go but I am in hope he will get it Thrue for I am anxious to in Lisst for the ware Sam if we Dont get the furlough we we are going to get up a battallion for Capt Buchanan and I would Like to have youre Company with us if we Do I think you could get a position that would not have much Labor to perform mostly writing Capt Buchanan Say he would Like to have you in his Company, if we get the thing up I think you could get Some office that would pay you I would Like to See you Elected Lieut Col or Magor I will let you no before I send this Letter off whether the Col gets his proposition or not, I thought he would have bin back to night but has not got in yet he went to Richmond to see whether he could get it or not,,

Dec 21th Col has got Back from Richmond the ware Department refured him to Gen Johnston I Learned that he sayd he would not have any thing to Do with it the furlough is out, we will stay untill our time is out I am Brother in law till
write Soon yours Pinck, B

Pontotoc Miss Feby 20. / 62

Mr E N B Blackwell   Dear Brother I entirely forgot to mention to you when I wrote a few days ago, that I had sent McBride's note to you by mail from Holly Springs in Jany requesting you to present it to the Administrator of his estate so as to keep it from being barred by law. When you write to me please let me know if it came to hand, and if so, send a receipt for it.

I am much discouraged with regard to My Wife's health she can sit up only a few minutes at a time and her nervous system is becoming so affected that a little noise has a serious influence on her. My own health too, seems not to be improving. The palpitation or some disease of the heart - I don't know what it is - seems to be increasing and troubles me very much.

Our poor country is getting into a deplorable condition We now have to do what ought to have been done three or four months ago, and our past apathy won't be repaired by three years effort and effusion of blood and treasure. I see no way of saving the Mississippi Valley now but by laying Memphis in ashes and placing very strong fortifications where the city now stands. This would be hard to do now but might be effected

by a powerful united effort and by cooperation of the gun-boats at New Orleans.

I have been preaching for almost twenty years past that these times of trouble were near at hand and I thought they would come on about from 1859 to 1862 and yet strange to say I don't feel fully prepared to endure the fiery trial. I greatly need divine grace to bear with meek submission the awful chastisements the Almighty is bringing upon us and on the world. O that God may look in mercy upon my dear, dear, children who are estranged from me, and bless them with a preparation, not only for our present troubles, but also for a heaven of happiness

I don't know that I ever had such a hard struggle to be able to say "Father thy will be done". Let us try to live for heaven there is nothing worth living for here

Yrs truly
M J Blackwell

Pontotoc Miss. Friday evening Oct. 31. 18[6]2

My dear Brother and Sister:

This is my fast day and I have been thinking much about you and your family and other dear relatives who are shut out from me by a cruel war; but O how my sorrowing heart pleads with the Holy One that we may all meet in that blessed blissful heaven whose lovely coasts the storm of war can never reach. I have long been looking for this time of "trouble" and preaching about it, and calling on the church to prepare for it; but I had hoped that I would be quietly sleeping in the grave while its dark dark night was lowering its shadows upon our world, but here I am to share in its scenes and afflictions. Well I desire to do and suffer all the will of God. He knows what is best for us, and He can and will provide for those who trust in Him; and if we see and suffer trouble He can cause all our troubles to work together for our good. Some few years ago God took away from me one whom I loved as only a husband can love a wife, the companion of early days and the sharer of the toils and cares of life. Little then did I think that the fatal stroke was an act of mercy to her in removing her from scenes of affliction and sorrow which her over sensitive nature was not prepared to meet and endure. In the silent forest shades of Tippah co. alone she rests and quietly sleeps. The storm of relentless war may howl over her grave; the cruel enemy may devastate property and sicken and sadden the hearts of friends and relatives in the neighborhood; some of her children may be in the power of the oppressor, and others exposed to hardships in the camp, and to the sword in the field of bloody strife, but she is unconscious of it all, and sleeps on undisturbed by the tears of the afflicted, and the tumult of the battle-field. O God of infinite goodness, prepare us all to follow on and to meet at last where enemies and temptations and trials can never come, and where joy and sweet peace shall forever reign. Blessed world! Thank God for the hope of getting there. Dear brother and Sister, let us double our diligence in the use of all the means of grace. We need much grace to bear patiently the injustice of our ene-

mies in the loss of property and other cruel afflictions which they bring upon us; but all these will be of short duration; after a few years, if faithful to God we shall look back upon them as a dream that is past. After the battle of Corinth and when we were expecting the Federal army would soon be among us an aged Presbyterian minister of this place (Rev. Mr Stewart) and I agreed to spend the forenoon of a day in fasting and prayer – neither of us being able to fast all day – for divine direction and protection. Our final conclusion was to remain where we are and attend to our lawful business. As we are here in the providence of God we thought it best to remain and whatever we might suffer in property or in person, to try and look to God to sustain us, and keep us faithful in the discharge of duty. I am sure if the enemy come I shall need much grace to keep from returning evil for evil, but God can give me that grace. Who knows but that if they come God may enable me to persuade some of them to repent and seek religion, and thus another soul be made to shout in heaven.

I wrote to you a week or so ago by Mssrs Patton & Bell informing you of the safety of Pink and Fed since the battle of Sharpsburg. Hope you have received the letter. I hear that Mr Grace has been stripped of nearly all his corn, but can hear nothing certain from you except Mr Patton told me he did not think they had yet disturbed you. I pray that the Lord may extend His protecting care over you and yours. I have very little doubt however that the Federal armies will overrun this section of country the present winter. With their overwhelming numbers & superiority in navy nothing but the restraining hand of God can hold them back. Blessed be God! They can do nothing beyond His permission, and He will overrule all for our good at last.

I recd a letter from Saml a few days ago. He was on Hickahala Creek in Desoto Co. north of Hernando and of Cold Water. Son Joseph and nephew Joseph well. I also recd a letter from Nellie at Canton Miss. not far from Jackson. She was at her uncle's and was well as usual. Little Sammie could walk round a chair. By last mail I recd a large document from Little Rock ^Ark via Richmond. Va., but on opening found it to contain a letter to Joseph with recommendations & instructions for Joseph's appointment on Genl

Hindman's staff in the Trans-Miss. Department, with a request to me to forward them to Joseph. If he goes I shall probably never see him again until we meet in the world to come. I cannot, however, dissuade him from going as he must scuffle for himself and family, and I shall be thankful if he can secure a place where he may not be so much exposed to the sword of the enemy. Poor Milton Green, Saml informs me, fell at the battle of Denmark and was buried at St Paul's near his brothers 14 mls west of Brownsville. O war, war! Cruel relentless war! how many hearts does it make sad! how many burning tears does it wring from innocent eyes! O God forgive our sinful Country and give us peace in thine own good time.

We have had much sickness this year, but are now enjoying usual health. Our crops are poor. I rented about 20 or 25 acres of land & planted in corn, but have hardly made 5 bushels pr acre. Flour is selling here at $20 pr hundred, beef 10 to 12½ cts pr lb. ~~molasses~~ $1.50 pr gall, sugar 40 cts pr lb, shoes $5 to 9 dolls pr pr. Coffee none at all.

Monday, the Lord willing, I start to Conference at Grenada, but look for a mournful meeting, so many preachers being within the enemy's lines & hence unable to attend our once joyful annual sessions. The Lord look mercifully upon the desolations of Zion.

We have recd no letter from Caroline Grace since last March we feel anxious to hear from her, and the girls are wondering what's the matter. Persons passing sometimes take the mail matter from here to Ripley, and by this means I hope this may reach you. Write when you can and come when you can. I long to see you.

Mary & Sarah send their love to all & request Agness to write to them. Let this letter bear my love and Carrie's to all. The blessing of Father, Son, & Holy Spirit be with you. Yrs truly M J Blackwell

[illegible] Richmond,
[illegible] 30th 1842

[illegible]

[illegible] write [illegible]
[illegible] chance [illegible]
[illegible]. I would [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] and the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible]
[illegible] I have [illegible]
[illegible] have [illegible]
[illegible] garden [illegible]
[illegible] commanded [illegible]
[illegible] Brother [illegible]
[illegible] you write I [illegible]
[illegible] what you
have done with the [illegible] that
[illegible] with you to collect [illegible]
[illegible] the afternoon if you [illegible]
[illegible] it I want [illegible]
[illegible] got [illegible] if you came

and whether ~~here~~ you can tell
[illegible]
of the you have [illegible]
[illegible]

I would [illegible] — no Better
[illegible] negroes have made
the change [illegible] leave or not
I am fearful that they will
leave if [illegible] let them know
[illegible] it close for
[illegible] is just a [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] all [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Pontotoc Jany 8 '63

Dr Sister

Mr Grace informs me that my dear Brother is yet in the hands of his wicked enemies. O how sorely have I been tempted. Were it not for the grace of God John Presley or I one would have a short career in this world. But my God has said "Vengeance is mine I will repay saith the Lord" and in His hands I leave him. May the Lord help you to put yourself and all you have in the hands of our Heavenly Father. Leave all to him He will direct and control all to his glory.

I learn that your cotton is still in existence somewhere. I will take the liberty of advising you to sell it immediately <u>without delay</u>. I would not give this advice if you could do better for your country. But what can you do? If you burn

it, it will only excite the vengeance of your fiendish enemies and you and your helpless family may be ruined and placed in a condition worse than death; if you leave it where it is the federals will be sure to find it at last and reap the benefits of it; and if they are to get it you had better make them pay for it than for them to get it for nothing. I know brother well enough to know that he would never consent for them to get a pound of it if he could help it and in this he is right; but they can take it whether you will or no, and you had better get something for it than to let them get the benefit of it for nothing.

I cant write much about brothers affairs as it excites me too much I am bad off with my head. Our love to all

Yrs truly M J Blackwell

Murray's Ferry So. Ca.
March 19th, 1863.

My Dear Sister

A note from brother Wm informs me that he had received a letter from Pinckney stating that he had just heard from home that Brother Botsford was in the hands of the Yankees at Bolivar Ten, that Ada had just got home (I suppose meaning from a visit to Ioro) that he was well & doing well & hoped soon to be released, that you were in bad health &c, My dear Sister these brief items give me some relief & at the same time fill me with anxiety to hear all the particulars of your Condition. I wrote to you recently & also to Cousin Joseph K at Pontotoc enquiring for you, I hope he will get the letter as bro Wm says Pinckney says the Mails go to that place. I have been fearing all the time that when I heard from you I would hear something very unpleasant, If this letter reaches you please let me have all the information you can give me, I was in hopes brother would have left Tippah when the Yankees took Corinth & the Rail Road near you, but suppose he could not do so, to break up & move off is no small matter, I think of you all the time and pray constantly that the Lord will be with you to bring you safely through all your troubles

We have been in daily expectation of an attack on Charleston for some time. It has been thought recently that the attack would be made at high tide today. I earnestly hope if we are attacked the God of battles will preserve us from the destruction of our enemies

We are all tolerably well at present, Anna has a daughter three weeks old today, born 26th Feby, Mrs Nancy came down & staid over two weeks with us, she has gone back home, we miss her very much,

Bro Robert was at Hamilton Crossing Spottsylvania Co Va, doing well, Co D, 5th Reg Folks Vol Perry's Brigade, Pinckneys address as given me by bro Wm was Franklin Depot Va, 2nd Reg Davis Brigade

Dear Sister I have no heart to write to you unless I felt certain you would get it, I am so anxious to hear from you, to know your troubles, I sympathise with you deeply, & would render any assistance in my power if I knew what I could do or what you need,

do let me hear if possible. My prayers are with you all, do trust in God, never despair of his help, Our love to all

As always your loving brother

Mrs M. E. Blackwell James M Burgess

Tippah Co Miss P.S. I wrote you that I had $100, in my hands for you - how shall I get it to you?, mat,

via Pontotoc

School House July 8th 1863

My Dear brother

I embrace the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at present I have ~~known~~ no news to write the yankees went down the Lagrange road yesterday they said that they had Vicksburg but I dont put any confidence in what they say they tell so many things that is not so. They was a man at our the house last night he had been to the Junction trading and after they had done ther trading and started home the yankees followed them and took there things from them this man and a lady made there escape and they captured the balance of the people I also heard to day that the yankees that went down the Lagrange were fired on and ran back and I hope that they will stay there. I am going to school to Miss M A Blackwell she has been three months tell Jo that Fred is going to school and is learning very fast he has been through his Book once Bell was up here yesterday she said they were all well down there the yankees took up uncle J Taylor but they released him the yankees got Mr Alderson the guerilla he has killed several yankees he is a deserter from the northern army and I suppose they said they would kill him

They have not got Solomon yet and I hope they never will get him I wish you could all come here and drive the yanks from our land we have fine times here meetings every friday Mrs Blackwells family is well they got a letter from the boys last week they were all well the yankees have fed at Mrs Blackwell five times they seem as if they wanted to take her up one of negroes left her the last time they was there they have taken the last horse she had she has not heard from Jo in a long time when she heard he was well

Mary and Jose recieved ~~your~~ Jos and Jesse letters I was glad to hear from you all and to hear that you was well bastin I am ~~grading~~ and writing and ciphering Mary Blackwell sends her best respects to you Loney says tell Jesse that he will answer his letter soon Fend says tell his Pa howdy for him he says he wants to see him John sends his love to you well I believe I have wrote all the news So I will close ~~bo~~ good bye for this time write soon as you get this

From Eliza A Moore

to J L Moore

Pontotoc Miss. July 15th 1863

Mrs M E Blackwell: Dear Sister. It has been a long time since I have heard from you and feel anxious to learn how you and Caroline Grace are getting along. I sent letters to Ripley for you a month or two ago from your brothers William & Dr Matt - hope you have recd them. I recd a letter from the Doctor soon after he arrived at home. All were well. I recd a letter from Samuel a few days ago enclosing one to you from your son Joseph which has been forwarded to Ripley & I hope you will get it. My son Joseph arrived here a few days ago from Vicksburg. Nelly preceded him here and they are both well as usual, but little Sammy is sick with diarrhea. Vicksburg surrendered 4th July & Port Hudson has since fallen so that the enemy now have the Miss. River Opened. Genl Lee has had a great battle in Pennsylvania, but the full result we have not heard. The yankees claim a victory. We are waiting with intense anxiety to hear the result from Richmond. I saw an Extra issued from Meridian which stated that all the field Officers in Jo Davis' brigade had been wounded or killed. Col Hugh Miller of this place commanding 42 Miss. was reported killed. The severe casualties among the field Officers in that brigade has made me feel very uneasy for your boys,

and I would not have mentioned these things to you until I could hear further particulars, but it is so seldom I get a chance to send you a letter that I thought I had better send you all the information I have by this opportunity. If I possibly can I will let you have all the information I can get and as early as possible. We are all involved in gloom and trouble and must only look to that God who is infinite in wisdom & goodness and from whom alone we can receive aid and support. I greatly desire to hear from you and to know if you have provisions. Mrs Dogan is very sick and we have many sick soldiers to nurse in the hospital. The rest of my family are about.

Let us try dear sister to live much in the spirit of prayer and communion with God. Time is short and if we are faithful we shall soon be beyond the reach of all cruel enemies, and troubles of the present life. O for much grace for we need it. May God in mercy bless you and your family. Give my love and my wife's and Sarah's & Joseph's & Nellie's to all yr children & my kind regards to Uncle Isaac & aunt Hannah & all the servants. Dear sister how I long to see you. Let us live for God & meet in Heaven where no trouble can come

Yours truly

M J Blackwell

Pontotoc July 17th 63
Friday morning
Dear Sister
I was glad to hear from you by Mr Easters, and was sorry he did not bring the money you collected for me. Please keep it till I can get it. I find by yr. letter to me that my letters do not reach you. I write by almost or quite every opportunity & send them to Ripley. Forwarded a few days ago one from myself & one from yr. son Joseph. He and Saml were well the last of June _ have not heard since. Have not heard from Pinkney nor Theodore since the battle of Gettysburg. Papers state that the field Officers in Jo Davis' brigade were badly cut up, but have seen nothing of caseealties in 2nd Miss. Reg. Judge Kilpatrick says he has hopes from what he saw in one of the papers that the 2nd Miss. was not in the battle. If I hear from yr boys I will write as soon as I can find a conveyance to you. I am sorry to hear that all yr horses have been taken from you but was thankful to hear that your crop was made so as to supply you with provisions. I hope & pray that God will take care of you

My son Joseph is here on parole He was among the prisoners taken at Vicksburg. Nelly came before he got here They are well, but little Sam

my has been bad off with diarrhea.
I forwarded to you weeks ago letters from yr brother William & Dr Matt. written after his return home — hope you have recd them..
I feel truly grieved to hear by letter from Caroline that the federals are treating her very cruelly having set fire to her house several times. I know not what is to become of us. We can only commit ourselves to God and pray for grace to endure all that may come upon us. Since the fall of Vicksburg I suppose we may look for the whole state to be overrun. I have been looking for this time of trouble for many years and have been trying to prepare for it yet I find I need much more grace to do & suffer all the will of God. Let us try sister to resign all into the hands of an allwise & good God. Life is short and when these storms have passed we may hope for an eternal calm where no wars nor civil enemies can

molest us again. Let us especially pray for grace to suppress all revengeful feelings so that if our enemies injure us temporally they may not injure us spiritually. God's hand is in this great war and He has some wise purpose to accomplish. O for strong faith for much do we need it in this hour of great trial

Mrs Dogan is very sick indeed and our hands here all full in nursing sick soldiers

The poor dear citizens of Vicksburg suffered awfully during the siege Jos. says he saw women following Gen Pemberton wringing their hands and crying & begging for something to eat. He heard that some eat rats.

When we are sufficiently humbled as a nation I think God will deliver us. The north I think will drink as bitter a cup as we before this thing is done with.

I wish you could have sent a letter to Doct Matt by Mr Easters as I think communication may soon be cut off. I have not recd a letter from you for months till this morning & waited several weeks after receiving Dr Burgess letter to hear from you before answering his to me & had to write at last without hearing from you. Please give my love to all & tell Caroline Grace I wrote to her a few days ago, & will be glad to hear from her & Mary as often as possible. But I reckon as yr horses are all gone you seldom see each other. Mr Easters is in a hurry. Give my wife's love to all Farewell may God bless you all. Let us meet in heaven.

Yrs truly

M J Blackwell

Pontotoc Miss July 30. '63

Dear Sister Margaret.

By the kindness of Mr Humphries I have been permitted to read a letter from Newton Hunt of Ripley but now of the army of Va. which brings sad intelligence. Grievous beyond description are the afflictions which are falling thick and heavy upon your heart and family. May a God of mercy sustain you under them. I suppose you have heard of your misfortune by the letter of Mr Harris to Mr Norton yet I hesitate and hardly know how to announce to you that Theodore was killed in the battle of Gettysburg Pa. and Pinckney so wounded that his leg had to be amputated. Virgil Grace was wounded in the leg. Bro. Braddock's boys were not mentioned in the letter

I can sympathise with you deeply, deeply, my dear sister, but I know it is impossible for me or any other mortal to comfort you. You must look above and beyond flesh and

blood for that comfort and sustaining grace which you need. Let me remind you however, that as sure as you are afflicted the affliction though severe and heart-rending, comes from a Being of infinite wisdom & goodness. In the sad hour when your heart is crushed and broken and bleeding, you may not be able to realize this yet it is no less a truth that God's hand is in all our afflictions - not always ordering them, but even where he does not order, he permits them, and he is able to bring good out of evil. Better, far better, to be stripped of all earthly comfort here, if need be, and find heavenly joy and comfort hereafter, than to enjoy worldly comfort and prosperity here and find in the sequel misery and ruin in eternity. This is the verdict of the understanding, yet when we come to experience the sorrows & afflictions of the present life O how bitter is the cup! how hard to endure! Poor human nature without divine

aid will sink under them. I can't tell you, nor write on paper, how deeply, how keenly I feel for you in your multiplied troubles. Pray much sister. God's ear is not heavy. Don't yield to the despondency of nature nor to the temptations & suggestions of the arch enemy; but as troubles increase, increase your wrestling prayers untill God shall pour spiritual grace as copiously upon you as your troubles have come.

Joseph came from Vicksburg some two weeks ago & spent a few days with us & Nellie then returned, but was taken very sick and again came here a few days ago — is now better & in a fair way I hope to get well. Little Samuel is sick & Mrs Dogan has been quite sick — better now.

I wrote to you & Caroline Grace a few days ago. Hope you have got the letters. Mr Grace was here a few days ago on his way to Okalona.

My wife joins me in love and sympathy

to all the family.

There is a fair prospect now that the whole State will soon be overrun, but it is only what I have looked for and expected. When north & south have been sufficiently humbled God will turn away his wrath from us. Better suffer here than hereafter

Farewell dear sister may the riches of grace be your portion here & hereafter

Yrs truly

M J Blackwell

6 Miles East of Jackson Miss: August 4th 186[illegible]

Dear Jo. I am here picketing, but will return to Brandon this evening. I received your notes of 29th & 30 July - was glad to hear from you but wish you had stated how you ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ when you got out of Vicksburg. I infer from some things that you must have escaped before its fall - I am truly sorry to hear such news from Cousins Pinck and Fed. You did not state whether Cousin Pinck was in our hands or the enemy's and whether he was likely to recover - Jo is in fine health but very lean. The health of the regt is good tho we have lived mostly on roasting ears since we left Mechanicsburg. Stayed 4 or 5 days at ~~[illegible]~~ where we got Beef & meal - and they are issuing now ~~meal~~ & Beef pretty ~~[illegible]~~ for the last few days. The Cars are running to Brandon again I hope we will get some Flour ere long. [illegible] my [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ since I left Mechanicsburg - W. R. Gentry. and B. M. Colman, both "fell out" sick, but doubtless at home now. - Lt. Motley succeeded in bringing back Six men only. ~~[illegible]~~ John Ferguson, Porter McKenna, Ben Ragsdale & Wade Jno Henderson & Turner
The ballance I will not permit to rejoin the Company. I have only 49 men, Richardson Johnson & Brown came up afterwards

When they get their pay some of them will go
again I feel Confident, I am Making out Pay rolls
and I dont care how soon they start. provided
I can catch them again & send them to Infantry
or to work on the fortifications, I have give[n] the
gentlemen a few lessons since their return: I mean
some of them - some have deported themselves
well since their return, and do their duty
That old Bully furioso Richd Brown - alias
"Capt Brown", who has slayed more men than
the confederate army ever has, took occasion
to remark in my presence that "every G- d-d
preacher that ever traveled, did so ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ for the eating they
could get" I knocked him down a few times
and kicked him over the encampment, and
then took my seat - He came back immediately
and remarked that I had the advantage of him
& that if I would take off my stripes, he would teach
me a lesson -, I told him my stripes were off &
that he should not be hurt in any way for anything
he might do while I was administering lesson
no 2 - He got out the way & has been remarkably
respectful since; tho he bilked a

string of charges against me — Jno Henderson tells me that while he was a prisoner he was with and waited on uncle while he was sick Bill Bromly and Willie Boardman are in the hands of the yankees — Willie was captured very mistiriously — and I have been able to hear nothing from him since. He was in a few steps of his post (near Franklin Tenn) fired his gun and shouted to "Be" (Blackburne bully once) to assist him, and all was silent. His capture perhaps saved the lives of several men. — Dr Tull is Hospital steward and Louis McClain is absent sick since the middle of May, so Ragsdale has all the duty to perform as sergeant ~~he is slow~~ natured and lazy but otherwise a good soldier — Bill Dye assistant forage Master and 4 or 5 others of my men on extra duty I have taken in all my Couriers, and have refused to furnish any more men since I came to Miss, except that I let Cosby have S. W. Jones as escort — you see I thought he would suit him so well. Bill Dye begged patiently a long time before I would consent for them to have him — shall take some of

them back, before the fights open again, I find that men dislike to carry guns and sub mit to proper discapline after flying around Hd Qrs awhile, Bill and Tull would not give their places for a Lieutenancy though if I ever conclude to ask for an election they, with Louis Mc_Morris & Lossitt will be the Candidates I am proud to say that my boys have always Conducted themselves well, with very few exceptions in all the fights we have had, and not one so far have been hurt, - I never have to make details of men to act any unusual hazardous part, but simply call for the number wanted and they instantly present themselves, you know how this would have been 10 Months ago numbers of them would more likely have run into danger if they had known that their officers did not wish them to do it - but notoriously ungovernable Co H - that Capt Milam said would take 3 Captains - a general and old Nick to command, have become to be pretty good soldiers - and now make as great effort to please me as they once did to dis please me -; Fully one third of the Company

Page(s)

Missing

Manning S.C. Sunday. August 23rd 1863. Mrs. M. E. Blackwell

My Dear Sister. You must excuse me for writing to you on the Sabbath. I hope the good Lord will pardon me. I feel that as I am approaching by letter one that is in deep distress. I could not find a more suitable occasion than this blessed beautiful Sabbath. I hope to be directed by the good one. So that I may not commit to paper in this letter anything repugnant to His will. Dear Sister your letters of the 25th July to me & Bro M. was recd in due time. Since then one written by you to Bro M. dated July 30th has been recd by him & he sent it to me. I recd it on yesterday. I am truly sorry for you in your deep distress. and do pray for you that the good Lord may be with you in your troubles. I pray God to have mercy on you and to give you grace to endure with christian patience all that He sees meet to afflict you with. Dear Sister one comfort you have. that you cannot be robed of your love to God. Oh that is a blessed thought. let all the precious promises of the blessed Saviour come up to your relief. lay hold of these promises by faith and you shall not need for God's assistance. Dear Sister I need not say that I do sympathise with you in the death of your noble son. (and perhaps sons) I believe you know I do. but Sister let me drop a word of consolation to you if I can. You must not look upon your children as lost. they are only gone before. Sister they are your precious treasures. yea precious jewels. where are they. they are those that have come through fiery trials and have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. and are now safe with Jesus. Oh Sister what draws or attachments to Heaven we have. when we reflect and think of the loved ones that have preceded us to Heaven

what desires we have to join them in that Land of rest. where the wicked never trouble and the weary are at rest. what do we rest from there. we rest from labor from trouble from temtations. from Sin. from weeping. from lementations. from war and blood-shed. and from the power of Satan. oh then that is an eternal rest. Hence the encouragement for us to endure all things that we may enter that rest that God hath prepared for His people. my Dear afflicted Sister my head is a fountain of water and my eyes running streams. when I think of your present condition. I scarcely can refrain going and making one desperate effort to get you removed from where you are, but my arm is weak. I can ondly console myself by leaving you and all you have and are in the hands of the Great God. But then Dear Sister I hope it is not out of place for me to advise you. and I feel constrained to advise you to take you Children and come to us. we cannot render you any assistance where you are. you may stay there untile you loose all you property. and perhaps then you cannot come. you may be preventid from comming. So I think the quicker you make the Sacrifise the better. it may be that we too may be invaded by the enemy. but then if you are here. and we have to Suffer. we can ondly Suffer together. you will feel that you are with your old friends and acquaintance and that may be some relief to you. Bro. M. told me he had written to you the other day that if you would come he would furnish you with a place to live at. I Mention that part of his letter least you should not get his in refrance to the triels you have with your negroes. I am truly Sorry. that they would add

one pang to your already bleeding heart. and here I will add a line for Poor old Maumer. She wants to know if her daughter Leah is the one that gives you trouble. and if so she wants to send word to her not to do so. Maumer Says to Leah to remember her and for her sake. and for Gods Sake to be kind humble and obedient to her Mistress. and all the family. Oh Sister you have no idea how Poor old Maumer has Suffered in mind about our Dear Mothers Children. She calls them her Children. Says they are so scattered. She is all the time fasting & Praying - and Says that she cannot Sleep of nights - about the time Matty went for you She abstained from the use of tobacco. Saying that was a crop she would take up for the return of her children to her. Meaning you and family. Since you did not come she has appeared to be in a decline and I fear she is Heart broken - how anxiously she listens to your letters. and every mail hour She enquires of me if I got a letter from any of her children. meaning you. Bro. R. Sister C. or Bro. M. I stayed at Bro M.s last Tuesday night. all were well. the last I heard of Bro R he was in Fla. at Quincy. I have not seen Poor Cally in several weeks. but when I heard from her not long since she was well. I have visited her as often as I could. and feel quite Satisfied that she is doing as well as could be expected. She has kind neighbours. and Lewis is very kind and affectionate to her. last friday was fast day by order of President Davis. we had preaching in the M.E. and Baptist Churches in this place. Aunt Frances Burge was

also cousin M. Bagnal. Cousin M. Strang is still living and health better than formerly. R. B. Strange is home on furlough. old Mrs Scarbourough is still living but crippled yet. Mrs Susan Snider still confined to her bed. all them I have mentioned with Mrs M. Blackwell. Beck Davis. S. Hearnel & M. Gamble. old Peggy Gamble and host of others of your old friends often inquire for you and express themselves in terms of deep sympathy for you. Dear sister this leaves myself and family in reasonable health except I find a great debility pervaiding my whole system. I cannot account for it unless it is constant uneasyness and perhaps for the want of Coffee. I have tried all along to bear with hard living knowing that our Soldiers had to live hard and fight hard for our liberties. and that consideration has keep me from complai-ning. I do sincearly hope that these times are not to last much longer. now Dear Sister I must close by sending you the most affectionate love of my Wife. and daughters & son. also of Mammers. to you and family and Blacks. also receive a large portion from your unworth Brother. Give my love to Cousin Jos & family and to your sympathising friends. I love any one who is kind to you in your trials. remember me kindly to Dr & Mrs Murray. May God Bless them. Dear Sister let us try to meet in Heaven. do write soon & often and also try to come as soon as possible.

with Brotherly affection I close

W. R. Burgess. Sen

Cousin Jos. B. Pleasant read then forward to Sister M.
(W.R.B.)

Pontotoc Miss Aug 24. 1863

Dear Sister Margaret: I enclose you a letter rec'd today from yr. brother Wm. It is seldom I can get a chance to send letters through, but hope you may have received those sent by Mr Singleton a few days ago as one of them contained news from yr boys in Va., and was written by bro Braddock's son. and one was from yr son Joseph in Jackson's Cavalry. The others I suppose were from yr. brother Matt.

Joseph & his wife and child are here and have been for some time past. Jos is quite sick - has started back to the army twice but had to return. The little boy is also sick with diarrhea which has long been running on him and seems hard to check permanently. I received a few lines from Samuel today which were written on the 9th. Your son Joseph expects to go home by furlough in September and Samuel hopes to get off for a short visit at the same time. Samuel wishes to hire Sam from you for camp service. It may be well for you not to let it be known to any one but yourself that Joseph is expected home as the children might thoughtlessly mention

it so as to let it get out in the neighborhood and the union men or rather tories would of course watch for him.

I hope and pray that the Lord may protect and sustain you in all your trials and sufferings. The 14th V. of the 94th Psalm often gives me comfort in these days of sore trouble and affliction. I have not heard, but hope that Agness reached home safely. O what would I give if I could but spend a day or two with you in quietude and peace. Thank the Lord there is a quiet peaceful heaven where I hope to meet friends and relatives beyond the reach of war and sorrow. My health is slowly improving and I frequently preach now here and in the surrounding Country. Give my own and Corries' love to all the family. Jos also sends his love to all. Remember me kindly to Uncle Isaac & aunt Hannah & tell them to pray much in secret and prepare for the good world. Farewell dear Sister May God bless and protect you all

yrs truly M J Blackwell

Nellie sends her love & requests Agness to get & send a silk Handkerchief to Joseph if she can

Gourdin's P.O. So. Ca.
Aug 27th 1863.

My Dear Sister

Your letter to Brother Wm, enclosing one to me, and yours to one similar to the one to Brother Wm, have all been received, I am very sorry to hear of Theodore's death, and the uncertainty about Pinckney — I was greatly in hopes that as you had been bereaved of your husband that your sons would be spared to you; But we must bow to the Will of God, He knows what is best for us, & he will make everything work together for good to them that love and serve him. I am glad that you are able to be so resigned to your afflictions, and troubles — My dear Sister I am so sorry you have to stay out there among such wicked people as the tories must be, I am in hopes however, that they will not molest you in any worse manner

than they have, Cousin Joseph ~~told~~ wrote me of hearing of two men being killed in their own houses by Tories, & I have seen the account of a presbyterian minister who was murdered at home by them in another County, I see that Grierson was at Corinth organizing a large raid, I see too that all the rail road stock at Grenada has fallen into the hands of the yankees, a writer complains that Genl Ruggles has his headquarters at Columbus instead of some point near the scene of action, If the crops and provisions in North & middle Miss are destroyed it will be a great loss to the Confederacy.

The siege of Charleston has been going on for near fifty days, last Friday night the yankees threw twelve shells into the City, on Sunday night they threw about the same number, Fort Sumter is nearly battered down, but still holds out, Fort Wagner cant be destroyed it seems, the yankees assaulted it again last Tuesday night but were again repulsed. I have not seen any more particulars

the women & children & noncombatants are being sent into the country – The orphans of the Orphan House are to be sent to Orangeburg – It is the intention of our authorities to fight with the outer forts & batteries as long as we can hold them & then fight in Charleston & keep on fighting & never surrender, I hope they will stick to this resolution – Thousands of negroes are there working – Two of mine have been there since 15th July, The Governor has called for ten Companies mounted infantry – Two Companies Cavalry & one Artillery to serve in the State to be composed of men who are not in, or liable to conscription. This will include me, I am glad this call is made, maybe the raiders wont have such an easy time as they had in Miss if all the men who are out of service will be armed ready to meet them, Bill Cockey, is Captain of a Cavalry Company in Clarendon already formed, Nearly every body thinks Charleston will fall after a while & that this County will be overrun, I dont know what the Lord intends

to bring upon us. I pray if it is in the order of his Providence for us to be overrun that we may have grace to bear the affliction & that we may humble ourselves before him for his hand is in all things for good or evil, to bless the upright & punish according to his wisdom, goodness & justice. I & Anna have made up our minds to stay & take what comes – trusting the Lord, we have no place to go to, I expect to be in service before they get here, I would fain beg you to leave Tippah but where could I advise you to go to come here would look like leaving the pan to get in the fire if the yankees get possession, for I expect we will be treated worse than anybody else, all I can say, dear sister is that I am ready to do all I can for you & you must look to God for direction, that is all I can say to any one in these uncertain times, you & yours have our sympathies & prayers for present & future happiness – Write as long as the way is open, Anna wrote you a long letter not long since – hope you got, our love to all – Truly yours

Mrs M G Blackwell J M Burgess

Pontotoc Miss Sept. 10th 1863.

Mrs M. E. Blackwell

Dear Sister I enclose a few lines to you in yr. brother William's letter. We have had considerable sickness in the family but no very serious cases as yet. My wife has been suffering severely with neuralgia and Joseph and his little son have been quite sick but are better. Mrs Dogan has also been very sick but has recovered. Joseph left home on day before yesterday. I heard from Samuel a few days ago he thought yr son Joseph would be home during this month. I hope the Lord will protect you from further depredations and sustain you under all your afflictions. Write me as often as you can and let me know how you and Caroline Grace is getting along. We hear this morning that the federals are advancing on us and the Cavalry have gone to meet them. We know not how soon we may be in their power. When I see the wickedness that exists among us and the worldlimindedness in the country in the midst

of the severe judgments which are falling upon us I don't wonder, at the continuance of the war and my heart almost sinks in me for fear of the increase of God's anger and chastisements. God is just and righteous in punishing us for our sins. We have one great consolation, there is a heaven where no trouble can come and where if faithful we shall soon be safe from the troubles of earth and wicked enemies. I pray much that God may give us grace to endure with meekness all our present troubles. We are not better than the apostles and first christians who reached heaven "through great tribulation" I feel very anxious to hear from you and Caroline & Mary. Please give my own and wife's love to all yr. family.

Yrs Truly
M J Blackwell

Manning. S.C. Oct 26th 1863.
Dear Sister

I write to you to let you know that we are all alive. and as well as usual it has been some time since I have heard from you. yours of Sept 8th is the last recd. it has been answered. I am anxious to hear from you again. I fear you have been badly disturbed by the yankees or tories. our county is in good health. and we are not visited by the yankees as yet. I dont think they can ever get to Charleston. and there is no way for them to get to us unless they come through Tennessee — Bro M. and family are well. Sister C has another heir I have not seen her since it was born.

I am kept very busy as there
are so few men left at home
each one has his hands full.
do write to me often and write
all the particulars concerning
your condition. how bad
I do want to see you all
and to help you in some
way. all join me in love
to you all. all. all.

adieu my dear Sister
your Brother Wm

Mrs Blackburn

Toucher

#4790-z
MARGARET E. BLACKWELL PAPERS

1864-1865

Folder 2 of 2

3 Mls South-East Point Ga
August 24th 1864 - 5 O clk. P.M.

Misses M A Blackwell & S R Crawford

Dear Cousin & Niece }

Tom arrived the 17th inst bringing me clothing and letters from you - I was glad to hear from you and you must pardon me for saying I was exceedingly glad to get the clothing for I had but one shirt and was gradually working myself into the belief that I could & would do very well without any - so I am much obliged to you for thus saving me from becoming a Barbarian - I am indeed thankful for the articles sent - I have had no money since I left Miss, but hope to get some soon - The boys have suffered here - Many of the boys are barefooted The boys have been and are suffering for some thing to eat - The boys do not get even Bread enough to eat - but the boys grumble less than you would imagine - Indeed the boys are great fellows and are getting to be terrible fighters - Seriously this has been the severest Campaign since the war began - our veteran soldiers admit it - Night and day - almost continuously for nearly four months - we have been fighting and watching - and sometimes almost starving - but we are not yet wornout. nor

starved - nor dispirited - Twenty thousand Brave Southern men have fallen since the army of Tenn left Dalton - but forty thousand still confront the enemy and are confident of final victory - I was fearful that the change in Commanders here would result in disaster. but the Army of Tenn is today intact in morale & in a field fight confident it can put to flight the hundred & twenty thous and mongrels commanded by Sherman. I have long wished for a general engagement, that the matter might be settled here but I am heartily tired and sick of the butchery and bloodshed - the series of indecisive contests we have had for months past that accomplishes nothing - If I could be assured of the time I would give you a description of the fights we have had recently - On the 28th Jul, I witnessed a battle betwixt five Corps of Yankees and one Corps and a part of a second Corps of our troops in front and on the left of our lines - I was not engaged and rode along the rear dodging the missiles of death and seeing what I could see - My Command was engaged but I had just come up from West Point and had not found it - & did not know that it had been engaged till the close of the battle - tho I had heard so - our loss in Brigade not more than forty or fifty - I think at that time, - Whole loss several thousand. Drove the Yanks back a mile but gained nothing - This the hardest fighting I have seen betwixt Infantry on both sides I shall not attempt any description of any engagement. but if I had the leisure and appliances I would give you every incident of Georgia campaign that has come under my observation - I hope someday - not far distant. to be permitted to narrate it all to you in person. I sometimes indeed frequently, have to expose myself and have made many narrow escapes - unworthy of such favor as I know I am, I have to acknowledge that the hand of Providence alone has saved me thus far. Indeed I have seen it manifest upon more occasions than one that Providence alone could save the lives of many men We escaped where it seemed that nothing could live - I heard of Cous Jo & Chris Grace on their way home sometime ago - I suppose they have got home - Tell them I cant recollect names well enough to give them the names of the killed and wounded since they left - but our regt has not suffered 1/4 as much as the other regts of Brig

- I met with Cousin Wm Dickey and his brotherinlaw. Wm Heir at West point on the 23rd of July - Cousin Jos Harvin is in the army here but I have not yet met with him - I received a letter from Uncle Nabor Harvin a short time ago - he sends his love to you all and to Aunts family - Cousin Wm died on Johnsons Island a prisoner Cousins Annie Bet & sister still single - Gentlemen of the Militia who saw us together say that Wm Dickey and myself favor very much - I was with him for several days - rather met him several times - After following a raid under Rosseau into Alabama I was left with a detachment of one hundred men at West point and Camped near the Militia camp - quarter mile distant - the boys imagine the Militia Cant stand fire and are very apprehensive of Yankee attacks One night about 11 oclk I heard a succession of explosions and Confusion among the Milish - the boys had bored the pith out of ears of Corn - filled them with Powder. ignited the fuses and "shelled" them out of camp - as they grains of Corn peppered them they bellowed to their Comrades that the Yanks were upon them

6 Oclk A.M. Thursday Aug 25th 1864 - 2nd Sheet

To save Jo from guessing I will tell
him that the boys engaged in shelling
out the Militia as far as I could after
ward learn were Jimmy Matthews
Bob Chandler. Ben McGehee - Alex
Whitten and boys of that ilk - after their
victory - being barefooted - they thought it
no harm to supply themselves with
shoes the Militia had left upon the
ground - I must make some other statements
for Jos & Chris' benefit - Baugh has not
been seen or heard of since about 28th July
and is thought to be captured - Jenty was
captured a few days after Jo was wounded
- A few days ago. Dick Porter. Rufus Garrat
Munns and Hooks were captured of Co C
Several of Andersons men have been captured
& some of Co. F. - Bob Simmons has been heard
from, was captured. Wills of Co C accidentally
killed himself while in line of battle a short
time ago - Fib Morris is in fine health and has
been wishing that Jos clothing had [illegible]
sent - said he would have been in there
and considered his fortune made - He
turned over Jos Rubber cloth to me a few
days ago. as he had more than he could well
carry - Jos Henderson & Bonner & old Ben Rawhide
went to the rear near Dallas & captured
a horse each - Rawhide had his stolen from
him - I have succeeded in mounting the most
of the men - Jos horse is at Eufaula - Jas
Wilder and Frances Drake there in charge of
the horses - Lossett Ragsdale & Ivey lost their

their horses on the 20th inst - We had a pretty fight that day about 25 miles below here I will send you a published account of it which is correct. If I find it is too large to go with this I will enclose to Pa and get him to send to you - Ivy thought he was gone up when his horse was shot under him - The 4th & 5th Squadrons of our regt alone of our regt - were present and they lost 4 horses killed and 4 men wounded - one only dangerously - Right Light of Co. I. - There were three Divisions of Yankees - Numbering 3600 The 4th & 5th Squdrons our regt chased [illegible] to South river and we returned to this place on Monday 22nd inst - The hardest fighting took place on Saturday 20th The Yanks ran over Ross' little band of 300 men - over his horses - upset wagons [illegible] Cannon & Caissons - but they suffered [illegible] than we did - I rode over the field early next morning before starting in pursuit and I tell you it presented a confused spectacle - Dead Yanks Dead horses in heaps and almost everything else lay scattered thick - Yanks got off 22 Ambulance loads of their wounded - I have just been Notified that I can get this off in half an hour by hand & I hurry as they are calling now for the letters

Cousin Agnes if you can by mixing up with some old plunder, save all my old manuscripts & letters I will be much obliged I would like very much my razor to be saved - also Mas and Pa's miniatures - Tell Jo & Chriss to return promptly at expiration of furloughs and have them renewed if necessary - I shall get Jo in some department on extra duty when he gets fit for it - as he will not likely be fit for field service again - I have to give up my boy Charlie this morning and dont know what I shall do - I have two horses and many things I cant carry Tell Chriss to bring me a boy about the size of the one I had, Charlie I would like much to [illegible] him and would be willing to pay $20 per Mo for him if I could get him all the time, or the same for Charley - If they will come and Aunt disposed to send them I will take one of them & take good care of him - Could be sent by Chriss

I have not written what I expected
nor as well - You must pardon &
each of you write to me - Tell
Aunt & Cousins - and Caroline and
Mary to be of Good Cheer - a while
longer & we will have peace
Eat a few Water melons & Peaches for me
My respects to Mr Braddock and
Maj Pegram - Morris sends a heap
of word to Jo - but I cant tell
heads nor tails - Tell Jo times grow
harder every day - duties severer. If
he sees Boone tell him My Boots
must come. Tell Sina and Elisha
I expect them to save me a big
Potatoe - hope to come and eat them
next Winter -

Yrs truly

J.H.B.

I forgot to tell
you that Tom and
myself have no
breakfast to eat from
beginning of the
15th till noon
of the 21st - You
can guess the
[illegible]

Reynolds Brigade numbered (500 men)
Five hundred Men
Jos Gun is deposited with Ordnance Sergt
Wilson for safe keeping - I came near
swapping it for a Pistol - as I thought he
would prefer it & I could take better care
of one than a gun - I failed to get this off
this morning but will have another opportunity
of sending it tomorrow - shall write to you both
again first opportunity - No stamps here

Page(s)

Missing

[ca. 9 Sept. 1864]

I saw Stewarts Corps Coming up on the 3rd.
and I felt sorry for them. they appeared so Com
pletely worn out -, We lost Much provision - Ord
nance stores and other valuables in Alanta
distroyed by Hood before he left, the explosion of
amunition Commenced at 2 Oclk A.M 2nd inst
and there was one Continuous roar for one hour
I shall not attempt to give you particulars of
the assault upon our works. You will get that
from the Newspapers, Many of our men Captured
are escaping and returning to our lines -. The
Citizens, as usual are whipt. of Coarse we are
always whipt in the estimation of a great many
of the Citizens and they attempt to make the
soldiers believe it - such ought to be made to
shoulder their muskets and march to the front
at once, We are not whipt but Mr Hood has
been out Generaled - We need Mr Johnson here
I have endeavored to learn our strength
here - and from best information I can
get we have about [redacted] thousand effective
men besides the Georgia militia, Sherman Crossed Chattahoochie with 125
thousand, and Yanks Claim that re inforcements
have kept his forces up to that number all
the time, but I doubt if he has more than
100 thousand effective men that is South of
the Chatahoochie; Ninety thousand more men

would insure us victory, but where are they to come from
- I was glad to know that Miss Sallie thought enough
of me to enquire so "particularly" for me; My regards
to her when you see her again - Dr. Tom Miller, her
brother was killed recently in Atlanta - Thad Hub-
bard was killed and lay on the field three weeks
before they got him off; Alex Starks and Stewart
and Wm. Arnice and [illegible] Nelson reported killed
the two first certainly so. - Jo Wilson & Jesse Darnold
safe. Dave Fowler safe, - were on 3rd inst. This for
benefit of their friends. I met Kippy Grace on the
morning of 2nd safe, Leander Rodgers safe on 1st.
I am now called upon for duty but hope to write
more today. if not, you will excuse it and
write me soon. Yrs truly J.H.B.

Fayetteville Ga. Sept 9th 1864

Sherman commenced retreating at 12 o clk on night of 5th
We commenced pursuit with our Brigade morning of 6th. and drove
their rear guard beyond Jonesboro morning of 7th. Had to come back down
here to cross river as they [illegible] destroyed all the bridges - We are
enroute for Fairburn near Eastpoint - When we got to Jonesboro we
found our dead stript of their clothing lying in the streets - and
our wounded in the Hospitals (100) stript - literally stript &
many of them of every particle of clothing - and the
very few women left in the place were not permitted to
take them water - threatened to shoot them if they did - No
men were left in the place - Citizens stript of everything

Page(s)

Missing

Berne Mich Oct 26th 1864.

My Dear [illegible]

If this should ever fall into your hands, you will no doubt be surprised and I am vain enough to think, pleased, when you read the name of her who now addresses you. As it has been years since last I had the pleasure of doing so in any way. I have heard enough from you during our long struggle to assure me that your heart was bowed down with grief from time to time and that many a sad change was being rapidly made. And O how fervently my heart "went out" to you and longed to sympathize with and console you. Then again when my own heart was wounded and bleeding I would long for your presence and often in dreams would lay my head upon your "faithful breast."—

I heard of your Father's death last year, and wrote to you immediately but suppose you never got the letter as you were then in the Yankee lines. But your brothers I was not aware that they too had been laid upon the bleeding altar of patriotism until some weeks ago. I met your uncle W. R. Burgess who told me a great many things concerning you.

If you notice the date of this you will see that it is the tenth anniversary of Sister Sarah's marriage. What a contrast in now and then. Every heart was joyous and free from care, Day trembling beneath its weight of joy and bright anticipations. Now she is left lonely and widowed, mourning for one who is sleeping his last sleep in Virginia with five fatherless little ones clinging to her and calling for one who can never hear their bitter wailings. Their noble, gallant Father

[2]

the field while gallantly leading a charge near Richmond. He was 1st Lieut in Comp'y "F" 4 Regt. A.C.C. His precious remains are still sleeping near Richmond but we hope some day to lay them by the side of his father and little daughter near his own loved home. I have lost many dearly beloved friends but still must feel thankful that so many are spared to us. We are now in a dreadful state of suspense on account of Arthur Harvin since he left College he has been with us a great deal and we have learned to look upon him in the light of a brother. His warm, affectionate heart, his gentlemanly and cheerful exterior has made him very dear to us, and last week he in company with one or two friends rode through [illegible] to join the 94th Ohio Regt. they were fired upon and Arthur has never been heard of since those who were with him escaped unhurt but did not know whether he was killed or captured, God grant that we may soon hear from him for this suspense is torturing beyond endurance. Sister Norah's husband is in the 6th Regt. of Cavalry near Richmond. he was at home on furlough a few weeks ago but has returned, Norah is living all alone with only her two little children. she lost her youngest child three weeks ago. a pretty blue eyed girl eleven months old. the eldest has Scroffula and has been given over by the physicians as a hopeless case. so you see dear Agnes that we have our hearts and hands full here all the time. Brother Sidney McFadden has never yet been in the army, he and Fannie seem to be as happy as they were at first, your little

You must excuse this badly written letter as I have been quite sick and am still nervous. this is only the third day that I have sat up.

Mollie.

the field while gallantly leading a charge near Richmond. He was 1st Lieut in Comp. "F" 4 Regt. A. Cf. His precious remains are still sleeping near Richmond but we hope some day to lay them by the side of his father and little daughter near his own loved home. I have lost many dearly beloved friends, but still must feel thankful that so many are spared to us. We are now in a dreadful state of suspense on account of Arthur Harvin since he left College he has been with us a great deal and we have learned to look upon him in the light of a Brother. His warm, affectionate heart, his gentle manly and cheerful exterior has made him very dear to us, and last week he in company with one or two friends rode through to the 44th Ohio Regt. They were fired upon and Arthur has never been heard of since. Those who were with him escaped unhurt, but we don't know whether he was killed or captured. God grant that we may soon hear from him for this suspense is torturing beyond endurance. Sis Nora's husband is in the 6th Regt. of Cavalry near Richmond. he was at home on furlough a few weeks ago but has returned. Norah is living all alone with only her two little children. she lost her youngest child three weeks ago. a pretty blue eyed girl eleven months old. her eldest has Scrofula and has been given over by the physicians as a hopeless case. so you see dear Agnes that we have our hearts and hands full all the time. Brother Sidney McFadden has never yet been in the army. he and Fannie seem to be as happy as they were at first. your little

You must excuse this badly written letter as I have been quite sick and am still nervous. This is only the third day that I have set up.

Mollie.

Olive branches have been added to the parent stem
Eloise, Minnie, Sidney and a nameless little black-
eyed curly headed girl only eight weeks old.
"Our Mister M." is still at home. If you remember
about the entire use of his left arm at [illegible]-
[illegible]. This left arm in a great measure recovered
the use of. It is still very weak but does not
amount to a deformity. I think he has entirely
abandoned the idea of marrying and devotes
himself entirely to Hannie and her little ones.
He is without any exceptions the kindest brother
I have ever seen. [illegible] you see [illegible] in
the old way at home. [illegible] and Hallie are both
grown and go into society some. they are both quite
short about the size of Nora. Hallie will be quite
small, is very much like Lizzie S. in her
manner. Charlie measures six feet 3 inches
in height. but is not yet sixteen. he is of a
very lively disposition. and often makes me
think of poor uncle Joe. Allan is more grave
and is fond of a familiar life. Scott is just
like Arthur Harris if you remember how he
looked when a boy. these two are going to school
in Cumming to Mr. Erwin. while little Ned is at
home studying mischief. he looks like
Charlie and is getting to be just as bad.
If you were here this week I daresay you would
join me in saying that you never wished to
see such a thing as molasses again as we
are making it and have the mill and boiler
in the yard where we are constantly annoyed
with it. every thing you see and touch has mo-
lasses on it. If you kiss a child there is dan-
ger of ^lingering^ [illegible] that would be agreeable in
one kiss. How different when you and I used-

ed. We scorned the idea then of wearing a do-
mestic dress, which now we willingly make
them, but oh me! If we could be blessed
with peace and have our dear friends who
are in Europe restored safety, oh how willing-
ly would I wear it all my life. When will
this war end? is hourly our cry, but we have
been blest so far in dear state that never
been invaded, but if she should be Heaven
only knows what will become of us since the
n states have fared so badly. They make terrible
threats against So. Carolina and are literally
thirsting to get within her borders. I commenced
to speak of Sugarcane but wandered from my
subject. Quantities of it was made here this
year. I don't know a single family who have
not made enough to do them. We make our own
mills and grind it out by horse power. Very few
planted the real Sugar or Ribbon cane on account
of not being able to procure seed. but my Father
is making it. I think it far superior to the Sorghum
I have thousands of subjects that I could write
about but must desist until I know whether
you can get letters from me or not. If you re-
ceive this do answer it immediately. then I will
write everything I know. Tell me when you write
about all my relatives. Uncle Dai's family, where
Cousins Joel and Lewis is, and how they are getting
on. Give a great deal of love to each member of
your dear family and embrace and kiss them
all separately for me. My parents Brothers and
Sisters send love to you all. May Heaven bless
you all and keep you safe is the prayer of one
who will always love you

Vermille E. Harris.
V. E.

Camp near Baileys Springs Ala. Novr 14th 1864

Misses M A Blackwell and S R Crawford } Dear Cousin & Niece.

I received a letter from Cousin Agnes of 27th & 28th ult a few days ago, and one from Bob a few weeks ago, but have not time to reply till now. will likely be stopped ere I get through as we are saddled up to meet the yanks — I have been on picket duty at Baileys Springs for the last three days, and am just relieved — Have had no Beef issued us for four or five days, but I am not hungry — the boys have been Conscripting Hogs and I have got one meal a day from the Citizens, who have generally very little to eat, and who will have to move off or starve — Our Army ruins the Country wherever it goes — Scraps every thing from rich and poor — the Soldiers have no money — not been paid 13 months pay due them. & not half enough issued to the Cavalry to subsist them — and the result is the County is plundered wherever we go. — It is generally thought we (the army) will move forward on tomorrow, to Middle Tennessee. Infantry now crossing at Florence — Armstrongs Brig crossed and came here on the 5th inst. since which time we have been fighting every day. On the sixth I went out to picket and had placed out a half dozen vedettes and a few scouts to the front and had just returned to reserve Camp, when in came full mies the vedettes and Scouts, before I had any other intimation of the attack — the Yankees close upon their heels and firing into them. we did not hear their guns till they got within 300 yds of us. — It amounted almost to a surprise, but I had plenty of men (7 companies) to hold the place, and as good luck would have it, I was mounted and found enough men ready to meet them instantly and check them till the others could get into position. We fought till night when they retired. Lt Knox, of your acquaintance I suppose, was badly wounded. — had just tendered his resignation and expected it return in a few days — They tried us in heavier force next day, but we were better fixed and drove them off directly — Col Pinson has lost more men than any other Regt, I think he has

lost 8 or 10 men, Capt King and Lieut Henley among the killed in his Regt; the names of the men killed & wounded I do not know When the Yankees would let us alone I had a nice time picketing at Baileys Springs - Met with some pretty young Ladies - one of whom I began to fancy and thought I had begun to interest her a little when she very seriously asked me if I were not a relation of Davy Crocketts - I have determined to get a better suit of clothing, if I have to rob a Yank; I met an old acquaintance of Pa's Rev Robt Williams, of McNairy County, Tenn in very bad health at the Springs; another old acquaintance of his Rev R. L. Andrews lives not far from here, Nearly all the citizens living in North Georgia & North Ala are ~~very~~ poor - some of them very poor and I cant see how they can live here - Tom Grace is well but getting very tired of the service - Criss went 4 or 5 miles North west after forage yesterday and while the wagons were loading he went out a half mile in front as picket and finding a squirrel commenced firing at it with his Pistol - the wagons stampeded and lost a good deal of the forage - he and another man took after them to stop them but the wagoners thought they were yanks, and drove furiously forward beating them to camp, Tom met with a number of his Tippah acquaintances in the Infantry yesterday - I sent some Memoranda for you to transcribe up to some time in September, but do not know whether you received it - please let me know when you do receive it & up to what date, so I may know where to commence next time - I commenced & go over again, partly by guess - as my pencil notes are defaced, I would write much more if I had good paper and oftener if I had leisure

You must both write me every opportunity - I have been looking for Cousin & Bro Joseph as time of furlough is up Yrs truly

Hamburg Perry Ct Ala 4th May 1865

My dear sweet Cousin O how happy I was about six weeks ago when your dear son Joe enquired & found our home & visited us O what numerous thoughts of gone by days when you & I were young & all peace & quiet prevailed our land & country how happy & gay then & now to hear from my dear cousin the many afflictions & troubles you yes we both have been called to bear yes dear cousin no doubt it is all for the best for our blessed lord tells us so & I do assure you dear cousin we have been all excitement since the day Joe got here Selma fell sunday after he left us friday morning & I spent many anxious moments about him as he told me he would come rite back here soon as the fight was over & thought of you all so often & on sunday after he was captured dear John Alex was captured at Mobile & we have never heard from him O what a hard time of war & now I recon we can soon begin to feel what you have for the last two or three years we are in two miles of the crossing of the Cahawba river of the yankee lines & we have been looking for six weeks for them all Forrests Cavalry were in here & scouted & picketed the river was all that kept them back in their raid from Selma I was so glad to see Joe when he got parolled & came on here I should like him to stay all the truce with us but Cousin Sam B thinks he ought to go on home as he knows you are quite uneasy about him I would be so glad darling Cousin to read one of your dear sweet letters do write me if you see an opportunity I have felt like I have been shut up from all my relations so long not a letter from Carolina since [illegible] Dec from Brother & all the relations were well & Cousin Mat had lost his little infant daughter Lou James was her name & Brother & Mat had both gone into the army I am so anxious to hear from them I feel so lonely Cousin since the death of my dear sister & three children Gus Junie & sweet little Williametta just nine years old but O they are all so happy & miss so much trouble we should be happy to think of their happiness sister has had three to die since she died Emma Willie her youngest child & Bob you recollect him only John Manly & Carrol are living now Bob was killed at the Wilderness fight sixth day May & I was so sorry to hear of your loss two dear sons at one battle we all truly sympathise you deeply & trust your loss is their gain how many dear ones are taken from parents by this unholy war God grant us a speedy & honourable peace is my constant prayer Joe tells me Agnes was Married about the time Pattie was Married on the 20th Oct she Married a Widower with two children son 6 years old & daughter 4 years old sweet little girl they have lived with us & now we expect to go to Marion to his place as have every summer been having chills down here last summer we lived in Marion & was all healthy. Alice is still single & Ella is nearly grown she goes to school in Marion at the Judson & cousin I must tell you of our good meeting we had about three years ago at an old church near us & had quite a revival there & five of my dear children professed religion & cousin it was one of my happiest times on earth it was at a presbeterian meeting & Jonnie appeared so anxious to join that church as a good many of his associates had professed also & would join there & the girls also & Cousin you always knew how much I was opposed in my church & he consented for the children to join & of course I joined that church too & we have quite a

a little band but a happy one all love each other all [illegible] ea & unity both of sisters two youngest sons professed O how thankful I was I felt & prayed for them as my own & I do assure you it was a time of rejoicing for us all Manly has never joined any church his wife Sallie is a Methodist he says he is so sorry he did not find your house when he was at Sipley I regret it myself for I want to go to see you so bad I dont feel like any ought to miss finding your house Cousin tongue cant express the great and anxious feeling I have to see & be with you & yours or have you all with me & mine how few of us left now of all the cousins I think we & cousin Martha Blackwell are all that is living yes & Cousins Susan & Tabbie but they were younger than we & dear Callie I hope is still living I heard the other day that Cousin Martha B had been persuaded to sell her land & rent land what a sad Idea I do wish she had kept it for the money is worth nothing now her health is bad & to be without a home is so bad you know Cousins Sarah & Ann are both dead & Susan has consumption O cousin it has afforded us all so much pleasure to Joe & Sam B at our house I thought it so noble in Joe to enquire & find out where we lived I love him so much for it & feel like that same warm feelings of love that we always bore for each other is still growing in our childs hearts Joe Blackwell has never been to see us did not find out in time before he left the neighbourhood & could not get a pass when he did find us out I enquired of every soldier that came in for them & sent them messages & at last Cousin Sam got here I am so anxious to see his brother Joe do give my best love to Cousin Joseph & tell him how happy I would be to see him & all his children Sam favours him so much & your Joe looks just like you cousin I know he will tell you how foolish I was when I found out it was cousin Margarets Joe I could not help crying I reckon I frightened him I so often tell my children about our childhood days & all our pleasure & happy days & they just delight to hear of old times kiss all the children for me Cousin Sam has told me what smart children you have Pattie has always been the pet here for every thing as her health was bad but Cousin Alice is the smart indistrious one she cant bear to see Mother set down to ~~[illegible]~~ sew she does nearly all for me & the most considerate child you ever saw says she will never Marry I tell you in secrecy she & Junie Scott has been engaged for two years past he is now prisoner for the second time. I never can let her go to ~~Carolina~~ I dont think will do now write to me & tell the girls to write tell Mary to write to [illegible] my little boy Jud has taken quite a fancy to Joe wants to keep him with us all the time tell Jimmie White howdy for cousin Rachel & all the children well I must close I have so much to tell you I ought to have commenced yesterday writing to you for I only feel like this is just a note Gussies widow is Married last No. she had called when Gus was dead just four months Junies Widow is still has a sweet little boy call him Gus but I think Junie is the most appropriate O I wish I could see you to tell you all the news May God bless you & yours is the fervent prayer of your ever devoted Cousin Rachel

Provost Mars[h]

Headquarters 2d Div.

May

This is to certify that I have this day paroled John O'Kane Pri, Co B. 2d Miss. Infy

Guards and Patrols will pass him to his home in Hardiman County Tennessee and [illegible] permit him to be molested or interfered with

[illegible] authority of the Lieutenant General [illegible] States forces and by instruction of the Corps Commander

By Command Of Bvt Maj Genl [illegible]

[illegible]

Capt [illegible]

2/12th June
1/13th "

2/12th June

1/13th "

By Capt. S. … A. Q. M.

Dollars.

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[4 June 1865]

Dear Cousin Margaret As I heard through a Soldier a Mr Wells from Lee's Army formerly a Carolinian who made inquiries for our old homes said Henry Lesesne told him that the yanks had come up from Charleston to Sumter & then down to Manning & all through that country but did not say what damages had been done but Cousin we know they leave nothing thats bad undone O I am so anxious to hear from our old homes I wrote a long letter to Brother & Family by a soldier going in to Columbia So Ca which I hope he has gotten & will try to write to us soon I am so anxious to hear from you dear Cousin all hear speak so often of dear Joe I know you must be proud of such a good son give him a kiss & great deal of love for every one of our family & tell him come to see us just soon as he can Jonnie Pack came home from Ship Island Wednesday after Joe left here O Cousin tongue cant express my feelings to have him at our home once more he has been quite sick with fever but so sad to think the war is ended & so many of our dear dear ones never more to return us again but it is all for the best for our troubles are great enough that we should rejoice that our dear ones are at rest & have none of our sad fate to share what will be our lot Cousin only the good one knows it is surely a dark time & perhaps may be worse all our darkies have been freed & they all look quite independent sometimes when a good many soldiers come in I dont know whether Levenia will cook enough for all to eat & you know the yanks wont let any one whip them now so they just as well all [illegible] I dont know what we will do for clothing no money to buy they wont spin much so it is certainly a hard time none of our darkies have left yet but I think some are making preparations but darkies plenty are hireing for just their victuals till christmas no trouble to get others if they leave Cousin Sam speakes of leaving us tomorrow but Mr Pack has gotten so much attached to him he has tried very hard to get him to stay all summer with us I wish he would stay with us I am fearful we are going to have a great deal of sickness several cases of Typhoid fever in the neighbourhood & our place is really sickly in summer we would have moved to [illegible]

this week but the yanks are there pretty thick & we dislike to go rite up to them so it is uncertain when we will go up but I dread fevers down here so much & such quantities of fruit here & you know children cant act prudently when fruit is such a great temptation & then the older ones set the example for the children Pat is the greatest child about fruit I tell them I will keep plums cooked in preserves all the time if they will let the raw ones alone but I believe they eat a half bushel a day well Cousin I am so sorry our wheat crop has failed entirely & very few crops made in this neighbourhood I hope you have made a good crop of wheat I think it & Potatoes are the greatest & best crops we make I am raising very few chickens or poultry of any kind Cousin Sam has caught us a great many fish which helps out the poultry very much well Cousin I must close but I must tell Joe Jimmie is bad as ever I wish he would come & learn Jimmie how to be a good boy Jonnie is so different to Jimmie so quiet & kind to all but I hope that will will wear off when Jimmie get to plowing as he will have to do all join me in a great deal of love to each member of your family & a kiss to all God bless you all my dear cousin is the fervant prayer of your ever devoted cousin Rachel

Hamburg Perry Ct Ala

June 14th 1865

Mrs M. E. Blackwell

Care of Capt
Saml Blackwell

Ripley (Tippah Co) Miss.
Sep. 23rd 1865

Dear Sir

I have been Mrs M. E. Blackwells family physician, since she has been the head of a family and infact bore the same relation to the family during Mr Blackwells lifetime.

I never knew Mrs B to treat one of her negroes with severity or even with injustice or unkindness. She always had me to give them the same kind of attention &c in sickness as the white members rec'd. She has settled with me for attention to them up to the present time, She furnished them comfortable quarters & clothing and plenty of rations, I was at Mrs B's some time in July last and I then told her that she should enter into contracts with her blacks, as it was pretty generally conceded that this would be required, her reply was that, she was perfectly willing to do so. And she said

infact she was willing to comply with the Orders of the proper Authorities on this Subject. That she had cheerfully accepted the terms of Surrender with all that would necessarily follow therefrom.

I was there again in a very short time and Mrs B. told me that she had entered into Contracts with all the Blacks who had worked in her Crop this year, had a neighbor to witness the same, and that the Negro's seemed very much pleased, and were all going to themselves very soon. I have been there frequently since that time, and I know that they (every one) moved off her premises some 6 or 8 weeks since. And I thought all was working well until a few days ago, when I heard that some of the Negro's were dissatisfied with the arrangement. Mrs B's Black people have had as many advantages as any others in this neighbourhood. I have thought it necessary to say this much in favor of justice & right,

Respectfully
Jno. Y Massey Mod

Hon J. W. C. Watson
Holly Spring
Miss